



## Focusing on completion

The Seattle Community Colleges believe that partnerships are the key to economic recovery. We also believe that the recovery should benefit everyone in the city. Currently, Seattle includes both the best and the worst in educational opportunity. We have a very high proportion of high-income earners with college degrees or credentials, and yet citizens who attended Seattle's public schools have performed significantly less well. We have a serious gap in educational achievement and consequently, we are facing tremendous economic inequality.

The solution to solving this problem goes beyond getting current K-12 students back on track. More than half of the workforce 25 years from now is already working today. For Seattle to be competitive during that time period, we need to improve the skills of currently working adults – particularly low-income workers, recent immigrants and people of color.

We also fear that the lack of skilled workers could create a bottleneck in the recovery. The jobs we lost in the recession are not the same ones which will get us out of it. Long-term structural labor market problems suggest that substantial mismatches between the skills and aspirations of those currently unemployed and the requirements of the new jobs will emerge as the economy recovers. Failure to solve the mismatch could lead to long-term unemployment for individuals and a competitive disadvantage for Seattle.

We believe that to be successful, the entire city – government, business, education, and community-based organizations – need to work together to double the number of students and working adults with post-secondary degrees or credentials.

## What we need to do

Learning from our own experience and the work of the Gates Foundation, Skill-Up Washington, Seattle Jobs Initiative and other key partners, we have identified four steps that can lead to doubling the number of completions:

1. Develop curriculum, professional development and career pathways that **embed developmental or remedial education** directly into job specific professional and technical programs. The goal would be to reduce the time to completion.
2. Connect college programs to real jobs, **so that students are able to find clear pathways from education to jobs and careers, and ensure that the professional and technical programs we offer meet the needs of the business community.** Expand partnerships among the Workforce Development Council, Skill-Up Washington, Seattle Jobs Initiative, the Chamber of Commerce, business associations and colleges.
3. Coordinate and expand public and community-based programs which are designed to provide **support services that ensure that students are able to stay in college long enough to achieve a marketable degree or credential ("the tipping point")**.
4. Convene community-based organizations, the Seattle Chamber of Commerce and Seattle Community Colleges to develop an internship program that connects students to job-specific work experience while helping Seattle businesses address their workforce issues.

To increase completion rates, we are advocating for the following legislative agenda:

1. **Continued funding for Worker Retraining** – State funding retraining unemployed workers in high-demand fields increased during the last legislative session. However, the increase expires at the end of this fiscal year, while unemployment rates are expected to increase slightly.
2. **Funding student enrollments** – Our open-door policy is in jeopardy. We have seen an 11% increase in enrollments over the past three years while our budget has been cut 22%. Thousands of students are unable to get into transfer courses and high-demand programs.
3. **Fund Performance** – Currently, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges matches Gates Foundation performance funding to colleges for instruction and support services which improve the completion rate of students via several key indicators ("**achievement points**"). The State Board is asking for funding from the legislature to maintain and increase funding for high-performing college initiatives.



**CENTRAL  
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## Seattle Community Colleges

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*The Seattle Community Colleges are equal opportunity institutions*



## Programs of Study

The Seattle Community Colleges offer more than 135 workforce education and training programs leading to certificates and/or degrees and ranging from 1 to 7 quarters in length. Several professional-technical programs also offer short-term training certificates; students may build skills and add certificates over time to progress in their fields.

### College Transfer Options

- Associate of Arts Degree
- Associate of Arts: Emphasis – Asian Pacific Islander Studies, Deaf Studies, Sustainable Agriculture
- Associate of Science Degree
- Associate of Applied Science – T Degree
- Associate in Business Degree
- Associate in Elementary Education
- Associate in Math Education

### Courses available in ...

- Humanities and Arts
- Social Sciences
- Natural and Physical Sciences
- Mathematics

### Bachelor's Degree Pathways

- Bachelor's in Applied Science - Hospitality Management
- Bachelor's of Applied Behavioral Science
- Many program-specific agreements between 4-year colleges and universities and individual Seattle Community Colleges

### Basic Education

- Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, General Educational Development, High School Completion, Pre-College Courses

### eLearning / Distance Learning

- Internet / Telecourses / Videostreaming / SCCtv

### Professional / Technical Programs

*Many programs offer Associate of Applied Science degrees*

- Creative Academy / Creative Arts including Apparel Design, Graphics, Photography, Publishing, Film & Video
- Automotive Technology
- Aviation Maintenance / Aeronautical Technology
- Building Service Technologies / HVAC
- Building Trades, Pre-Apprenticeships & Apprenticeships
- Business / Accounting including Business IT, Administrative Assistant, Customer Service, Entrepreneurship, International Trade, Project Management, Supervision & Management, Tax Preparation
- Carpentry, Boatbuilding, Wood Construction
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts / Food Production / Hospitality / Pastry / Wine Industry Training
- Drafting / CAD Technologies
- Early Childhood Education
- Electronics / Telecommunications / Engineering / Biomedical Equipment Technology
- Green and Sustainable Training Programs (Georgetown Campus) including Energy Audit and Certification, Conservation and Weatherization, Building Sustainability Managers

- Health-Related Professions including Nursing, Clinical Lab Assisting, Dental, EMT, IT & Medical Office Specialties, and Anesthesia, Opticianry, Pharmacy, Respiratory & Surgical Technologies
- Industrial / Manufacturing Technologies
- Information Technologies / Computing Technologies / Networks / Web Design
- Interpreter Training / Sign Language
- Landscape Horticulture
- Maritime Training (Seattle Maritime Academy)
- Real Estate
- Social and Human Services
- Watch Technology
- Welding Fabrication Technology

### Continuing Education/Lifelong Learning

- Community education for professional and personal development
- Customized / Contract Training with business, industry and agencies

### International Programs

- Intensive English Institutes
- Transfer Programs
- Study Abroad

### Worker Retraining

- New careers for laid-off and dislocated workers